


**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to insert the correct status and publication number of the referenced Japanese patent application. A prompt examination on the merits of all claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: July 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By,   
S. Peter Ludwig

Registration No.: 25,351

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant